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November 16, 2001

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RAYED MOHAMMED ABDULLAH,

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - USAMA BIN LADEN/AL-QAEDA

FULL INVESTIGATION AUTHORIZED: 10/08/2001 (NONUSPER)

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Phoenix, Arizona

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY PREPARED: November 16, 2002

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

(U) (S) FBI Phoenix, initiated an investigation on RAYED MOHAMMED ABDULLAH, based on information developed through investigation into the terrorist acts which occurred on September 11, 2001, involving the hijacking and crashing of commercial aircraft into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and into rural Pennsylvania. These attacks have been attributed to USAMA BIN LADEN (UBL) and his AL-QAEDA terror network. Investigation determined that ABDULLAH had ties to HANI HANJOUR and NAWAF AL-HAZMI. HANJOUR and AL-HAZMI are two of the terrorists that were on board American Airlines (AA) flight number 77 that attacked the Pentagon. NAWAF AL-HAZMI, prior to the 09/11/2001 terror attacks, had been identified [] as being a UBL/AL-QAEDA operative. Investigation has demonstrated links between ABDULLAH and UBL/AL-QAEDA. AL-QAEDA, a designated foreign power, is the subject of a full investigation at FBI, New York.

AL-QAEDA

(U) AL-QAEDA, under the leadership of USAMA BIN LADEN, has declared holy war on the United States for its "occupation of holy lands" and has issued a total of three fatwas (religiously sanctioned opinions on civil or religious matters), in which it declared the duty of every Muslim to kill Americans, civilian or military, wherever possible.

(U) The name AL-QAEDA, or "the Base," dates back to 1988 and reportedly originated from the term used to refer to one

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of USAMA BIN LADEN'S (UBL) guesthouses, where the Mujahidin that came to fight in Afghanistan were required to register. These registration records later provided with extensive contacts to Islamist fighters around the world. AL-QAEDA includes, in addition to the warriors present at USAMA BIN LADEN'S camps, a loose network of terrorist cells throughout the world. The most outstanding features of AL-QAEDA are its international outreach and vast financial resources, derived mainly from USAMA BIN LADEN'S personal wealth and financial dealings.

(U) USAMA BIN LADEN was raised in Saudi Arabia in a wealthy, high profile, family of Yemeni origins. The beginning of his radicalization dates back to his university studies in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he was linked to members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Later, his involvement in the Afghan struggle against the Soviet occupation played a major role in shaping his ideology. During this experience, he found a sense of purpose and became deeply religious. USAMA BIN LADEN also made contacts with Islamic fighters from around the world and participated in a victorious struggle against a secular superpower. The combination of USAMA BIN LADEN'S wealth, connection to, and command over experienced, motivated, and radical Islamic militants, and his fervent anti-U.S. orientation make him a serious threat to U.S. national security.

(U) AL-QAEDA operates approximately 12 training camps in Afghanistan, in which it has reportedly trained as many as 5,000 militants. These militants have allegedly created cells in 50 countries. Some of these trainees may be "sleeper" agents, who live undetected among local populations.

(U) AL-QAEDA members are familiar with modern communications and have been reported to use encrypted e-mail, cellular phones, satellite communications, and training manuals on CD-ROMs. The group emphasizes the symbolic value of targets when making its selection, e.g., U.S. embassies, World Trade Center, military barracks, USS Cole, etc.

(U) The U.S. State Department currently links AL-QAEDA to many recent terrorist attacks, among them the World Trade Center bombing (February 1993); the attacks in Riyadh (November 1995) and Dhahran (June 1996), Saudi Arabia; the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Mubarak in Ethiopia (June 1995); the near-simultaneous bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (August 1998); and the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen (November 2000).

(U) AL-QAEDA may have several hundred to several thousand members. AL-QAEDA serves as a focal point or umbrella organization for a worldwide network that includes, among others, many Sunni Islamic extremist groups such as Egyptian Islamic

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Jihad, some members of AL-GAMA'AT AL-ISLAMIYYA, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and the HARAKAT UL-MUJAHIDIN. AL-QAEDA has a worldwide reach, has cells in a number of countries, and is reinforced by its ties to Sunni extremist networks. USAMA BIN LADEN and his key lieutenants reside in Afghanistan, and the group maintains terrorist training camps there.

INVESTIGATION TO DATE

RAYED MOHAMMED ABDULLAH

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(S) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(U) (S) [REDACTED] the FBI, through an intermediary named [REDACTED] on 09/15/2001 to provide the FBI with information concerning HANI HANJOUR, one of the hijackers that attacked the Pentagon on 09/11/2001. [REDACTED] the Islamic Cultural Center (I.C.C.) located in Tempe, Arizona. [REDACTED] the I.C.C. [REDACTED] interviewed at [REDACTED] residence. [REDACTED] wanted to fully cooperate with the FBI.

(U) [REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]

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(S) On the visa application [redacted] indicates that [redacted] will be responsible for the support and sponsoring in regard to the finances [redacted]. A letter from AL RAJHI BANKING AND INVESTMENT CORP., Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, confirms [redacted] is a customer of AL RAJHI BANKING, and possesses a balance of \$50,000 (U.S. currency).

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(U) (S) After the terrorist incidents which took place on September 11, 2001, the following information has been confirmed concerning the crash of AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 77, which crashed into the Pentagon at approximately 9:39 a.m., on September 11, 2001.

(U) (S) On September 11, 2001, AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 77, a Boeing 757 aircraft, departed Dulles International Airport (IAD) at 8:20 AM en route to Los Angeles with 58 passengers and 6 crew members on board. At 8:50 AM, the last routine radio contact with the aircraft was made and at 8:54 AM, the aircraft began an unauthorized turn to the south. Shortly thereafter, radar contact was lost. At 9:39 AM, Flight 77 deliberately crashed into the southwest side of the Pentagon, Alexandria, Virginia.

(U) (S) Investigation to date has determined that Flight 77 was hijacked by five Middle Eastern males. The hijackers have been identified as KHALID AL-MIHDHAR, date of birth May 16, 1975 (Seat 12B, Coach Section); NAWAF AL-HAZMI, date of birth August 6, 1976 (Seat 5E, First Class); HANNI HANJOUR, date of birth August 30, 1972 (Seat 1B, First Class); SALEM AL-HAZMI, date of birth February 2, 1981 (Seat 5F, First Class; and MAJED MOQED, date of birth June 18, 1977 (Seat 12A, Coach Section).

(U) (S) The five Flight 77 hijackers were in the United States on visas and passports from Saudi Arabia. HANJOUR is the earliest known entry into the United States. He entered the United States on October 3, 1991, from Saudi Arabia to attend the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the University of Arizona. Believed to have returned home to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of 1992, HANJOUR re-entered the United States in April 1996 and resided in Florida for one month. HANJOUR then moved to

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California, where records indicate he attended ELS Language School in Oakland until August 1996. HANJOUR began flight training in September 1996 at Sierra Aeronautical Academy Airline Training Center, also located in Oakland. HANJOUR continued flight lessons after he moved to Arizona at the end of September 1996 when he attended one month of training at Cockpit Resource Management (CRM) in Scottsdale, Arizona. He then returned to Saudi Arabia for one year. HANJOUR returned to the United States in November 1997 and again resided in Florida for approximately one month. He moved back to Arizona in December 1997 and resumed flight training at CRM. HANJOUR then began training at Arizona Aviation in Mesa, Arizona, on March 3, 1998, and continued there until his departure from the United States in April 1999.

(U) (S) Over a span of three days in the Spring of 1999, AL-MIHDHAR, NAWAF AL-HAZMI, and SALEM AL-HAZMI obtained visas in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Following a meeting in the beginning of January 2000 with a known USAMA BIN LADEN associate, AL-MIHDHAR and NAWAF AL-HAZMI entered the United States at Los Angeles, California, on January 15, 2000, and settled in the San Diego area. While residing in San Diego, both AL-MIHDHAR and NAWAF AL-HAZMI undertook flight instruction. In April 2000, NAWAF AL-HAZMI participated in a one-hour introductory lesson at National Air College in San Diego and then, along with AL-MIHDHAR, received instruction on two occasions at Sorbi Flying Club in San Diego during May 2000.

(U) (S) AL-MIHDHAR departed the United States in June 2000. NAWAF AL-HAZMI stayed in the San Diego area until December 2000, at which time he moved to Arizona with HANJOUR who had just returned to the United States. HANJOUR resumed his flight instruction at Arizona Aviation, after which he continued training at Pan Am International Flight Training Center, also known as Jet Tech International, in Phoenix, Arizona. In March 2001, NAWAF AL-HAZMI and HANJOUR vacated their Arizona residence and subsequently appeared in the Northern Virginia area in April 2001.

(U) (S) On May 2, 2001, MOQED entered the United States at Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., traveling from Dubai, U.A.E., with AHMED ALGHAMDI (Flight 175). NAWAF AL-HAZMI and HANJOUR arrived in New Jersey during this time and leased an apartment in Patterson. On June 29, 2001, SALEM AL-HAZMI arrived in the United States at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York, from Dubai, U.A.E., along with ABDULAZIZ AL OMARI (Flight 11). SALEM AL-HAZMI also proceeded to New Jersey. After AL-MIHDHAR's return to the United States at JFK, New York, on July 4, 2001, all five hijackers were located in the same area of New Jersey. This is the first documented instance that all five hijackers were in close proximity of each other. Investigation has revealed association between these hijackers as well as with those of the other hijackers' flights.

(U) (S) In the weeks immediately preceding September 11, 2001, the hijackers of Flight 77 stayed in various motels in the

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area of Laurel, Maryland, and utilized computers to gain Internet access at the local Kinko's. During this time period, numerous documented interactions occurred in the areas of Laurel and College Park, Maryland, during this time period among the Flight 77 hijackers and the hijackers of the other flights. ZIAD JARRAH (Flight 93) was observed with the Flight 77 hijackers on occasion and also had registered at some of the same hotels in the Laurel area as the Flight 77 hijackers. Another notable interaction between the hijackers occurred on August 13-14, 2001, when NAWAF AL-HAZMI and HANJOUR traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, at the same time as MOHAMMAD ATTA (Flight 11).

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(S) The Flight 77 hijackers commenced their travel arrangements for the September 11, 2001, flight within a few days of August 8, 2001. On August 8, 2001, AL-MIHDHAR and MOQED attempted to purchase their tickets through American Airlines' website but were unsuccessful because the address they gave could not be verified by the airlines. AL-MIHDHAR and MOQED ultimately purchased their tickets with cash on September 5, 2001, at the American Airlines counter at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. On August 27, 2001, NAWAF AL-HAZMI and SALEM AL-HAZMI purchased their tickets through the web site Travelocity.com using a Visa debit card in name of NAWAF M. AL-HAZMI. On August 31, 2001, HANJOUR attempted to purchase his ticket with a VISA debit card at Advanced Travel Services, Totowa, New Jersey. After the card was rejected because the cost of the ticket exceeded the card's credit limit, HANJOUR paid for the ticket with cash.

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(S) Throughout his stay in New Jersey and Maryland, HANJOUR continued to attend flight training at various locations. The lengthy and extensive flight training obtained by HANJOUR throughout his years in the United States makes it reasonable to believe that he became the pilot of Flight 77 on September 11th. HANJOUR was seated in Seat 1B, the first row aisle seat of the First Class section. The other hijackers were seated in pairs further back in the airplane. Subsequent examination of FAA radar plots and the flight data recorder indicate that approximately thirty-four minutes after take-off, the aircraft made a 180 degree turn from its westward flight path near Portsmouth, Ohio, to return toward Washington, D.C. The aircraft then executed a 360 degree turn to make a final descending approach into the Pentagon at an estimated air speed in excess of 400 knots. The flight cockpit recorder was later recovered at the crash site but sustained such severe damage that it was rendered unusable.

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(S) At 9:39 AM., AA Flight 77 deliberately crashed into the southwest side of the Pentagon, Alexandria, Virginia. In addition to the 53 passengers, 6 flight crew members, and 5 hijackers, 189 Pentagon employees, both civilian and military, lost their lives.

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(S) On September 12, 2001, a 1988 Toyota Corolla

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registered to NAWAF AL-HAZMI was found in a parking lot at IAD. A subsequent search of this vehicle revealed many documents and other items associated with the hijackers, including a three page letter handwritten in Arabic. This letter was identical to those found in luggage belonging to ATTA (Flight 11) and at the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 in Stoney Creek Township, Pennsylvania. Translation of these letters revealed specific religious guidance to prepare for the hijackings.

(U) (S) Following the crash of AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 77 into the Pentagon, investigation determined significant ties between the actual perpetrators of the crash (described above) and ABDULLAH. Set out below are a series of documented links between these individuals, in particular HANI HANJOUR [redacted]

(U) (S) On November 15, 1997, ABDULLAH arrived in Newark, New Jersey, via CONTINENTAL AIRLINES FLIGHT 51, and the aforementioned ELS LANGUAGE CENTERS in Melbourne, Florida, was listed as his intended destination. On November 16, 1997, HANI HANJOUR arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, via LUFTHANSA FLIGHT 444, with a listed destination of 3740 Corey Rd., Val Maria, Florida.

(U) (S) ABDULLAH, during an interview with the FBI on 09/15/2001, advised that in November 1997 he (ABDULLAH) arrived in Orlando, Florida, and was picked up at the airport by BANDAR ALHAZMI, who introduced him to HANI HANJOUR. ABDULLAH had previously stated that ALHAZMI had been a friend of ABDULLAH's from Saudi Arabia. [redacted] HANJOUR told [redacted] that he (HANJOUR) had met [redacted] at ELS, and was also interested in becoming a pilot. [redacted] did not know anyone named NAWAF AL-HAZMI. Investigation is continuing in an effort to determine [redacted] NAWAF AL-HAZMI [redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ FBI investigation [redacted] has identified him as

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being an Algerian national. He is a pilot and pilot instructor who had provided flight training to HANI HANJOUR (AA 77 terrorist). [redacted] is also believed to have provided training to [redacted] has utilized aliases and is affiliated with Algerian Islamic extremist activities and individuals who are associated with Algerian Islamic extremist activities in Rome, Italy; Paris, France; London, England and the United States. FBI investigation has documented over \$200,000 in deposits into [redacted] Phoenix, Arizona bank accounts. This figure is not commensurate with his earnings as a flight instructor. On 09/21/2001 [redacted]

[redacted] in connection with the criminal investigation into the 09/11/2001 terrorist attacks based upon his association with HANI HANJOUR. [redacted] has been released from custody [redacted] due to a lack of evidence implicating him with the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He remains in [redacted] lives with his wife. Investigation is continuing concerning [redacted]

(U) (S) Flight logbook records for ARIZONA AVIATION show repeated instruction [redacted] during the time period September 1998 - December 1998. During this same time period, HANJOUR also received flight instruction from the same instructor [redacted] at ARIZONA AVIATION. [redacted] in December, 1998, [redacted] private pilot's license.

(U) (S) In January, 1999, [redacted] and according to multiple statements, began to reside in a separate apartment [redacted]. Apparently at this time, due to [redacted] marriage, it was no longer feasible to reside in an apartment [redacted]

(U) (S) On June 23, 2001, [redacted] HANI HANJOUR joined SAWYER AVIATION SIM CLUB, purportedly to engage in simulator flight training. During June and July 2001 there are SAWYER AVIATION records that reflect that [redacted] engaged in flight simulator training at SAWYER aviation.

(U) (S) [redacted] a Saudi Arabian national who entered the United States during March 1997 on an F-1 (student) visa to attend MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE located in Mesa, Arizona. Investigation into the 09/11/2001 terrorist attacks developed information [redacted] several close friends to his apartment several days after the attacks and told them that he had been taking flight lessons. [redacted] friends, who are all Saudi Arabian nationals, that he had been taking flight lessons and that they would probably be interviewed by the FBI. One of these individuals remembers [redacted] stating that he trained with HANI HANJOUR. The others could not specifically remember [redacted] stating that he had trained with HANJOUR. Each of these individuals told the FBI that they were "shocked" to learn that [redacted] had been taking flight lessons.

(U) (S) [redacted] interviewed by the FBI on 09/18/2001

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concerning his association with HANI HANJOUR [redacted] denied knowing HANJOUR. It was latter determined that [redacted] did in fact know HANJOUR. On 09/20/2001 [redacted]

(U) (S) On 10/29/2001 FBI Phoenix executed a search warrant [redacted] residence. Financial documents located during this search demonstrated a financial relationship between [redacted] and the AL-RAJHI BANKING AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION. This corporation, as previously mentioned, has been identified as a financial conduit utilized by UBL/AL-QAEDA.

(U) (S) In regards to the relationship [redacted] one flight instructor told the FBI that it appeared [redacted] scheduled flight simulator time [redacted] and did all of the talking with flight school employees [redacted] a French citizen from East Africa and flight instructor, told the FBI [redacted] him to provide flight simulator training [redacted] at SAWYER SCHOOL OF AVIATION located in Phoenix, Arizona during June 2001. [redacted] not to tell anyone about [redacted] training. [redacted] thought that it was "weird" that [redacted] would make such a request. [redacted] admitted to knowing HANI HANJOUR but denied providing him with any training at SAWYER during June 2001. FBI Phoenix does not believe [redacted] is being truthful concerning HANI HANJOUR. [redacted] arrested by FBI Phoenix and charged with various counts of Social Security fraud. He has been tried and convicted and was deported from the United States during April 2002.

(U) (S) FBI Phoenix believes that it was highly probable [redacted] were engaged in flight training at the direction of UBL/AL-QAEDA.

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(U) (S) Numerous interviews have disclosed that there is a regular meeting at an apartment in Tempe, Arizona, where [redacted] and various other associates meet to discuss matters of interest. The individuals attending these meetings contribute funds to secure the usage of the apartment. This information will be discussed in more detail subsequently.

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[redacted] USAMA BIN LADEN, and AL-QAEDA investigations.

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(U) (S) FBI interviews conducted at SAWYER AVIATION, CRM AIR TRAINING, ARIZONA AVIATION, and other Phoenix area flight schools [REDACTED] HANI HANJOUR and the other individuals discussed above, disclosed that they were not good pilot students. Several individuals interviewed indicated that they knew something was wrong with the manner in which [REDACTED] HANJOUR and others conducted extensive flight simulator training. In hindsight these instructors wish they had called the FBI to report their suspicions. FBI Phoenix believes that the purpose for these individuals extensive use of the flight simulator was to gain the necessary knowledge to manually control an aircraft in flight. This would be necessary for the terrorists, after they seized control of the aircraft, to fly the aircraft into the intended targets.

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(U) (S) [redacted] the subject of a separate FBI investigation at Phoenix. [redacted] former roommate and student at ERAU at Prescott, Arizona. [redacted] interviewed by the FBI [redacted] on April 17, 2000. [redacted] [redacted] in Pakistan on March 28, 2002 with senior AL-QAEDA lieutenant ABU ZUBAYDAH. Investigation has determined [redacted] [redacted] was receiving training in the use of remote control devices to conduct bombings. Investigation [redacted] is continuing.

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